

# NEWS RELEASE

## TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
37243-0655

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2002**

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NASHVILLE – Governor Don Sundquist today declared July 22 - 25 as Safety and Health in the Workplace Week and called for employers and employees to make safety in the workplace a top priority. In connection with the safety week, the 25th annual Tennessee Safety and Health Congress and Exposition will be held July 21-24 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

“By focusing on prevention and education we have an opportunity to make our workplaces safer,” Governor Sundquist announced. “More than 2,000 safety and health professionals are expected to attend the conference to share information on the best safety practices and learn the latest safety techniques from national experts.”

There will be 60 hands-on workshop sessions geared towards general industry, construction, management, industrial hygiene, healthcare, occupational medicine and other topics relative to all aspects of workplace safety and health. Two special workshops being offered are a 10-hour General Industry Safety & Health course that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor and a 10-hour Safety and Health for the Roadway Construction Industry. This year’s Congress will include a special presentation of certificates to the Tennessee OSHA occupational safety specialists and industrial hygienists who assisted with the World Trade Center Cleanup efforts. The Safety Congress is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health (TOSHA) Division of the Department

of Labor & Workforce Development and the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

“There are more than 2.75 million workers in Tennessee,” Commissioner Reineke reported. “Our role is to help promote safety and health in the workplace through workplace monitoring and on-site inspections and to provide technical assistance and rapid response to employee concerns over safety and health issues.”

“Prevention is the key to workplace accidents,” Reineke continued. Our TOSHA staff train about 6,000 employers and employees annually on safety measures. The Safety and Health Congress is just one of our outreach programs.”

Tennessee is one of 25 states that operate state administered Occupational Safety and Health programs. “We feel a state program enables us to respond immediately to employer and employee needs, as our field staff are located across the state,” Reineke stated.

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